

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method to automatically activate a reserve hardware component, comprising:

monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
comparing said load to a threshold specified in a resource usage policy; and
automatically activating said reserve hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising updating said resource usage policy after said reserve hardware component is activated.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising balancing said load among said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- a) monitoring a combined load on said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component;
- b) comparing said combined load to a second threshold specified in a second resource usage policy;
- c) deactivating a hardware component selected from said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component when dictated by said second resource usage policy; and
- d) indicating that said selected hardware component is deactivated.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising signaling an event manager based on said monitored load as dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve hardware component when said monitored load exceeds said threshold for a predetermined occurrence.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve hardware component when said monitored load exceeds said threshold for a period of time.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said resource usage policy triggers a number of alarms when said threshold is met, and wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve hardware component when a response to said number of alarms is not received.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising updating a configuration profile to include said activated reserve hardware component, said update being made in response to said indication that said reserve hardware component is activated.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising charging a user of said activated reserve hardware component a fee, said charge being made in response to said indication that said reserve hardware component is activated.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An apparatus for automatically activating a reserve hardware component, comprising:

- at least one computer readable storage media;
- a resource usage policy stored on said at least one computer readable storage media; and
- computer readable program code stored on said at least one computer readable storage media, said computer readable program code comprising:
 - a) program code for monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
 - b) program code for comparing said monitored load to a threshold specified in said resource usage policy;

- c) program code for activating said reserve hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for indicating that said reserve hardware component has been activated.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for selecting a reserve hardware component to activate based on a hierarchical resource deployment scheme.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for signaling an event manager based on said monitored load when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising program code for selecting said reserve hardware component from a pool of reserve resources.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

- a) program code for monitoring a combined load on said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component;
- b) program code for comparing said combined load to a second threshold specified in a second resource usage policy;
- c) program code for deactivating a hardware component selected from said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component when dictated by said second resource usage policy; and
- d) program code for indicating that said selected hardware component is deactivated.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising program code for returning said deactivated reserve hardware component to a pool of reserve resources.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
a configuration profile stored on said at least one computer readable storage medium; and
program code for updating said configuration profile to track the availability of each said resource.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An apparatus for automatically activating a reserve hardware component, comprising:
means for monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
means for comparing said monitored load to a threshold specified in a resource usage policy;
means for activating said reserve hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising means for tracking the availability of said number of active resources and said reserve hardware component.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising means for deactivating said reserve hardware component based on said monitored load when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein activating said reserve hardware component comprises activating a reserve processor.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said reserve processor is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein activating said reserve hardware component comprises activating a reserve memory.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein said reserve memory is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold specified in said resource usage policy is a rate of active resource consumption.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said program code for activating said reserve hardware component activates a reserve processor.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said reserve processor is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said program code for activating said reserve hardware component activates a reserve memory.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said reserve memory is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the threshold specified in said resource usage policy is a rate of active resource consumption.